

Attorney Jim Garrison's probe of the assassination of President John Kennedy.

The governor's letter was dated June 5 but was distributed to newsmen Monday.

Connally suggested to Gov. John J. McKeithen that the return of Sergio Arcacha Smith for questioning in Garrison's investigation "be accomplished through the use of procedures provided in the uniform act to secure attendance of witnesses from without the state."

"Pending final disposition of your request pursuant to this act, your request for extradition of Sergio Arcacha Smith is being retained on my docket without prejudice," Connally wrote.

McKeithen formally requested Arcacha's extradition to face charges of conspiring to commit burglary.

But at a hearing May 22 before Texas Secretary of State John Hill, Connally's extradition officer, Arcacha's lawyers contended the real reason for the extradition request is to bring Arcacha back to Louisiana for questioning in the Garrison investigation.

Copies of Connally's letter went to Garrison and Vail M. Delony, speaker of the Louisiana House.

Connally's decision means Louisiana will have to prepare a new request if Arcacha is to be sent from Texas to Louisiana.

Garrison's office alleged that Arcacha and Gordon Novel conspired with David W. Ferrie to burglarize a munitions hunker in Houma in August, 1961. Ferrie was

found dead in his apartment after Garrison opened his investigation into the possibility of a conspiracy to assassinate Kennedy.

"The investigation is to humiliate, harass and destroy our client. His concern is that his life will be endangered" if he is returned to face the burglary

charges, one of Arcacha's lawyers, Emmett Colvin Jr., Dallas, told Hill at the hearing.

Arcacha, a native of Cuba, testified he never met Lee Harvey Oswald, named by the Warren Commission as Kennedy's killer, and said he was in Houston when Kennedy was assassinated.

Connally Delays Tex. Extradition

Texas Gov. John Connally has told Louisiana authorities he has decided to delay action on a request to extradite a man wanted in New Orleans District

Attorney Jim Garrison's probe of the assassination of President John Kennedy.